

CUSTOMER NO.  
60533**REMARKS**

Claims 1-9, 11-24, 26-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alloune et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,615,034) ("Alloune") in view of Pericas et al. (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2004/0224661) ("Pericas"). Claims 10 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alloune in view of Pericas and further in view of Himmel et al. (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2003/0045267) ("Himmel").

Under 37 C.F.R. §1.131(a), when any claim of an application is rejected, the inventor of the subject matter of the rejected claim may submit an appropriate oath or declaration to establish invention of the subject matter of the rejected claim prior to the effective date of the reference on which the rejection is based. According to 37 C.F.R. §1.131(b), the showing of facts shall be such, in character and weight, as to establish conception of the invention prior to the effective date of the reference coupled with due diligence from prior to said date to a subsequent reduction to practice or to the filing of the application.

A declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 and supporting evidence is attached herewith. Applicants respectfully submit that, based on the declaration and supporting evidence, Pericas is removed from consideration as prior art. Each of claims 1-40 is, therefore, allowable over any combination of references that relies on Pericas to disclose or suggest at least one element of the claim. The Office Action rejects claims 1-9, 11-24, 26-40 as unpatentable over the combination of Alloune and Pericas, and rejects claims 10 and 25 as unpatentable over the combination of Alloune, Pericas and Himmel. That is, the Office Action relies on Pericas to disclose or suggest at least one element of each rejected claim. Since Pericas is not prior art to the present application, claims 1-40 are allowable.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the claims now pending.

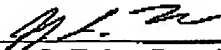
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if such a call would in any way facilitate allowance of this application.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

5-30-2006  
Date

  
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